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PAGE 01 BUCAR 00284 161223Z

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AID-01 SS-07 EUR-08 NSC-06 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 160917Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6255

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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CODEL MIKVA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (MIKVA, ABNER J.), EEWT, PFOR, RO

SUBJ: CODEL MIKVA

1. SUMMARY. REPRESENTATIVE MIKVA'S THREE-DAY VISIO
FOCUSSED FUNDAMENTALLY ON GOR IMMIGRATION POLICIES AND
PRACTICES AND SECONDARILY ON TRADE QUESTIONS. MIKVA
LEFT EXPRESSING APPROVAL OF EMBASSY EFFORTS ON BEHALF
OF PROSPECTIVE EMIGRANTS AND INDICATING REASONABLE SATIS-
FACTION WITH GOR ASSURANCES ON FUTURE PERFORMEANCE. END
SUMMARY.

2. SCHEDULE. PROGRAM DIVIDED PRINCIPALLY BETWEEN RELATED
THEMES OF TRADE AND HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS. ON TRADE MIKVA
SAW GOOD CROSS SECTION OF GOR OFFICIALS (DEPY PM PATAN,
MIN OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY FLORESCU, AND DEPY MIN PINZARU OF
MACHINE BUILDING) AND US BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES (MANUFACTURERS
HANOVER AND GENERAL TIRE INSTALLATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
PROJECT IN FLORESTI). WITHIN IMMIGRATION AREA MIKVA'S
PROGRAM INCLUDED DISCUSSIONS WITH ROMANIAN OFFICIALS (DEPY
FON MIN GLIGA, DEPT OF CULTS) AND QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL
RELIGIOUS GROUP (FEDERATION OF JEWISH COMMUNITY), CONTACTS
WITH IMMIGRATION APPLICANTS, AND MEETING WITH ISRAELI AMBASSADOR
COHEN. BALANCE OF SCHEDULE COMPOSED OF PROTOCOLARY SESSION
WITH ECONOMIC-ORIENTED GROUP FROM HOST ORGANIZATION, GRAND
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND EXCURSION TO PRAHOVA JUDET. REPRESENT-
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PAGE 02 BUCAR 00284 161223Z

ATIONAL FUNCTIONS INCLUDED LUNCHEON GIVEN BY AMBASSADOR, DINNERS

OFFERED BY DCM AND E/C COUNSELOR AND FAREWELL LUNCHEON BY GNA.

3. TRADE LEGISLATION AND US-ROMANIAN TRADE AGREEMENT. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR AT BEGINNING OF VISIT, MIKVA INDICATED THAT AFL-CIO COULD ENGAGE IN MAJOR ASSAULT ON ROMANIAN MFN DURING FORTHCOMING WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE HEARINGS. UNION, ACCORDING TO MIKVA, MAY GIVE VENT TO ITS CONCERNS OVER US ECONOMIC SITUATION BY USING VEHICLE OF HITTING HEAVILY ON ROMANIAN EMIGRATION PERFORMANCE IN LIGHT OF OVERALL DECLINE IN JEWISH 1975 EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL. ALTHOUGH HE SAID HE HIMSELF WAS AWARE OF DECLINING BASE FOR EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL IN ABSENCE OF SOME RAPID AND SUSTAINED IMPROVEMENT IN THIS AREA ALONG LINES OF LATTER PART OF 1975, MIKVA FORECAST CONSIDERABLE EROSION OF LAST YEAR'S NEAR-UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR ROMANIAN MFN. HE MADE ESSENTIALLY SAME POINT, IN SOMEWHAT MUTED TERMS, TO DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER GLIGA. ON JACKSON-VANIK, MIKVA STATED ONLY SCENARIO HE COULD SEE FOR RELAXATION OF CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS INVOLVED SOME PRIOR ASSURANCES FROM SECRETARY THAT USSR WOULD AGREE TO INCREASE IMMIGRATION FLOW.

4. BILATERAL TRADE. WITH GOR OFFICIALS MIKVA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION OF ROMANIAN NEED TO EXPORT PRODUCTS WITH WHICH TO PAY FOR IMPORTS. HE BALANCED HIS FREE-TRADE EXPOSITION WITH ALLUSION, MORE OR LESS EXPLICIT DEPENDING ON INTERLOCUTER, TO PROBLEMS CREATED BY CONCENTRATION IN IMPORT SENSITIVE COMMODITIES, LIKE SHOES. CONTACTS WITH US BUSINESS REPS, PARTICULARLY GENERAL TIRE, CONVINCED HIM OF NEED FOR OUR COMPANIES TO ADOPT YANKEE TRADING APPROACH IN NEGOTIATIONS AS WELL AS NEEDED TO ASSIGN LINGUISTICALLY-QUALIFIED PERSONNEL TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION.

5. IMMIGRATION. MIKVA'S INTERESTS DIVIDED BASICALLY BETWEEN

(1) SEEKING ASSURANCES ON GOR IMMIGRATION POLICIES AND

(2) PURSUING INDIVIDUAL CASES.

A. IN HIS OFFICIAL CONVERSATIONS CONGRESSMAN DID NOT RECEIVE CATEGORICAL ASSURANCES HE WOULD HAVE LIKED. HE DID, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BUCHAR 00284 161223Z

HOWEVER, ELICIT SIMILAR FORMULATIONS FROM TWO SENIOR GOR OFFICIALS, WHICH APPEARED TO CONVINCING HIM THAT ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD DEAL WITH CASES AS THEY AROSE IN PRAGMATIC, HUMANITARIAN FASHION. DEPY PM PATAN STATED THAT ROMANIA MAINTAINED ITS BASIC POLICY ON HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS SO THAT THERE WERE "NO PROBLEMS, JUST CASES". SENTIMENT ECHOED BY DEPY FORMIN GLIGA WHO ASSURED HIM THAT OUTSTANDING HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS BROUGHT TO GOR'S ATTENTION BY USG WOULD BE SOLVED. MEETING WITH DEPART-

MENT OF CULTS WAS PREDICTABLE SET PIECE AS WAS THAT WITH
FEDERATION OF JEWISH COMMUNITY UNTIL, AS FORMAL SESSION CONCLUDED,
FEDERATION PRESIDENT SEGAL ASKED CONGRESSMAN FOR HELP IN ASSISTING
HIS NIECE TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL.

B. REP MIKVA CAME ARMED WITH LIST OF 30 APPLICANTS OR
PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS FOR EMIGRATION. EMBASSY ADVISED HIM
OF STATUS OF ALL AND/OR INITIATED ACTION ON THIER BEHALF.
IN ADDITION, MIKVA INTERVIEWED EIGHT APPLICANTS IN EMBASSY
AND UNDERTOOK PRECEDENT-SETTING VISIT TO APARTMENT OF ONE
FAMILY. FROM HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR AND CONSULAR
OFFICER CONGRESSMAN INDICATED FULL APPROVAL OF EMBASSY'S
TACTICAL APPROACH TO INDIVIDUAL CASES AND ATTENTION EMBASSY
ACCORDED EACH.

C. AT LUNCHEON WITH ISRAELI AMBASSADOR COHEN CODEL
RECEIVED THOROUGH ALBEIT SOMEWHAT NEGATIVE BRIEFING ON STATUS
JEWISH COMMUNITY IN ROMANIA AND PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH
GOR EMIGRATION POLICY. CONGRESSMAN CRITICIZED AMBASSADOR
COHEN FOR TOTAL LACK OF SUPPORT BY ISRAELI EMBASSY TO INDIVIDUAL
EMIGRATION CASES, COMPARING IT TO USG EFFORTS. HE SUBSEQUENTLY
TOLD DCM HE HAS CONCLUDED GOI IS "GETTING A FREE RIDE" ON
USG BACK IN CONNECTION WITH JEWISH EMIGRATION.

6. COMMENT. WE FEEL VISIT LARGELY FULFILLED CONGRESSMAN'S
INFORMATION GATHERING OBJECTIVE. IT SERVED ALSO AS CONSTRUCTIVE
REMINDER TO GOR OF CONTINUING CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN
ROMANIAN EMIGRATION PERFORMANCE. WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT
MIKVA WILL SUPPORT EXTENSION OF ROMANIAN MFN, SHOULD
ROMANIAN EMIGRATION PERFORMANCE NOT DROP OFF PRECIPITOUSLY
IN COMING MONTHS.
BARNES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, JEWS, TRADE AGREEMENTS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, EMIGRANTS, VISAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BUCHAR00284
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760017-1018
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760151/aaaabtak.tel
Line Count: 146
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <13 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL MIKVA
TAGS: OREP, EEWT, PFOR, RO, (MIKVA, ABNER J)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006